

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended). An automated system upgrading utility meters from old meters with traditional meter reading capabilities to new meters with automated meter reading capabilities and maintaining accurate records of the upgrade comprising:

a first computer readable medium disposed in a portable handheld device;

a host computer readable medium with the ability to transmit data to and from said first computer readable medium;

customer information embodied within said host computer readable medium containing current utility meter information and location information for customers;

a set of host computer readable ~~host~~ instructions embodied within said host computer readable medium for retrieving said current utility meter and location information for customers who have old utility meters that need to be upgraded, transmitting said retrieved current utility meter and location information to said first computer readable medium, and updating and transmitting meter information concerning the upgrade of one of said old utility meters with a new utility meter;

a set of portable computer readable ~~portable~~ instructions embodied within said first computer readable medium of said portable handheld device for receiving said retrieved current utility meter and location information from said host computer readable

medium, receiving updated meter information directly from a new utility meter following concerning the upgrade of one of said old utility meters ~~with a new utility meter~~, and transmitting said updated meter information to said host computer readable medium; and,

said set of host computer readable instructions includes instructions for receiving said updated new meter information from said first computer readable medium representing upgraded old meters, and updating said current utility meter information with said updated meter information in said customer information on said host computer readable medium, to reflect updated upgrade status.

2. (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein said set of host computer readable instructions includes instructions for creating route information representing a list of locations where meters need to be upgraded arranged in a logical sequence based on said location information.

3. (Original). The system of claim 2 wherein said set of host instructions includes instructions for transmitting said route information to said first computer readable medium.

4. (Original). The system of claim 3 wherein said set of host instructions include instructions for converting said route information to a format recognizable by said first computer readable medium prior to transmitting said route information to said first computer readable medium.

5. (Original). The system of claim 3 wherein said set of portable computer readable instructions includes instructions for displaying said route information.

6. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 1 wherein said set of portable

computer readable instructions includes instructions ~~for~~ for displaying a list of options; receiving input representing a selection of an option from a user; and displaying output in response to said selection of option.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein said set of portable instructions include GPS instructions for communicating with a Global Positioning system to obtain accurate information for locating a utility meter.

9. (Currently Amended). An automated system for upgrading utility meters from old meters to new meters and maintaining accurate records of the upgrade comprising:

a computer readable medium;

a set of computer readable instructions in communication with said computer readable medium ~~for~~ for receiving customer information of customers with old utility meters transmitted from a host computer readable medium; receiving upgraded meter information ~~of a from a new utility meter to replace~~ replacing an old utility meter ~~or a component used to upgrade to the old utility meter~~; and transmitting said upgraded meter information to said host computer readable medium.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Original). The system of claim 9 wherein said set of computer readable instructions include instructions for displaying route information received from a host computer.

12. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 9 wherein said set of computer readable instructions includes instructions ~~for~~ for displaying a list of options; receiving

input representing a selection of an option from a user; and displaying output in response to said selection of option.

13. (Original): The system of claim 9 wherein said set of instructions include GPS instructions for communicating with a Global Positioning system to obtain accurate information for locating a utility meter.

14. (Currently Amended). An automated system for upgrading utility meters from old meters to new meters and maintaining accurate records of the work orders comprising:

a host computer readable medium;

a set of host computer readable instructions in communication with said host computer readable medium ~~for~~for retrieving current utility meter and location information for customers who have old utility meters that need to be upgraded to new utility meters from customer information in communication with said host computer readable medium; transmitting said retrieved current utility meter and location information to a second computer readable medium; receiving upgraded meter information from said second computer readable medium representing upgraded meter information received from a new utility meter replacing an old utility meter ~~old meters~~; and updating said current utility meter information with said upgraded meter information in said customer information on said host computer readable medium, to reflect updated upgrade status.

15. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 14 wherein said set of host computer readable instructions includes instructions for creating route information representing a list of locations where meters need to be upgraded arranged in a logical

sequence based on said location information.

16. (Original). The system of claim 15 wherein said set of host instructions includes instructions for transmitting said route information to said first computer readable medium.

17. (Original). The system of claim 15 wherein said set of host instructions include instructions for converting said route information to a format recognizable by said first computer readable medium prior to transmitting said route information to said first computer readable medium.

18. (Withdrawn). A method for maintaining accurate records and processing information associated with utility meters while upgrading utility meters comprising the steps of:

retrieving current utility meter and location information for customers who have old utility meters that need to be upgraded;

transmitting said retrieved current utility meter and location information to a portable computer for upgrading an old meter, updating meter information to a portable computer concerning upgrading of an old utility meter a new utility meter, and transmitting said updated meter information to a host computer;

receiving said updated new meter information from a portable computer representing upgraded, and

updating said current utility information with said updated current utility meter information in said customer information on said host computer readable medium, to reflect updated upgrade status.

19. (Withdrawn). The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of

creating route information representing a list of locations where meters need to be upgraded arranged in a logical sequence.

20. (Withdrawn). The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of transmitting said route information to a portable computer.

21. (Withdrawn). The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of converting said route information to a format recognizable by a portable computer prior to transmitting said route information to a portable computer.

22. (Withdrawn). The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of displaying said route information on a portable computer.

23. (Withdrawn). The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:  
displaying a list of options on a portable computer to a user;  
receiving input representing a selection of an option from a user; and  
displaying output in response to said selection of option.

24. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 1:

said set of computer readable host instructions for receiving updated meter information includes instructions for upgrading said old utility meters with additional components; and,

said set of portable computer readable portable instructions for receiving updated meter information includes instructions for upgrading said old utility meters with additional components.